

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bouve (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended independent claim 6 to recite, in addition to other elements, "checking means for checking whether a user's manual operation is needed to acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information". Attached is a copy of claim 6 depicting the changes thereto. As is disclosed in the specification as filed at column 6, lines 45-56, if a user requests information from a particular location, and a plurality of information sources are available as corresponding to the present location, a determination is made as to whether a user input is required to determine the additional information corresponding to which of the plurality of information sources should be retrieved. Thereafter, the user selects which additional information is to be retrieved, and the appropriate information is obtained. Applicants submit that Bouve fails to depict this feature of checking whether a user's manual operation is required to determine which information to obtain. Indeed, Bouve does not discuss a situation where multiple information is available at a particular location, and therefore does not discuss the need for determining whether a user must select between these multiple information sources.

Because Bouve fails to disclose this limitation included in amended independent claim 6, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

Applicants also present new independent claims 7-10. Each of these newly presented claims recites either a checking means or checking step for checking a match between a received image and an obtained image, or recite a matching process using the obtained image. As noted above, Applicant submits that Bouve fails to disclose the consideration of multiple information, or incorrect information, being received corresponding to a particular location. Therefore, Bouve similarly fails to teach or suggest any need for confirming a match between and obtained image and a received image. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that newly presented claims 7-10 are allowable over the Bouve reference previously relied upon by the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication at paragraph five of the outstanding Office Action of the allowance of claims 1-5.

To the extent the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

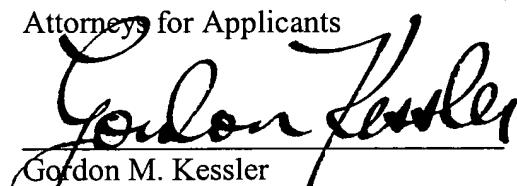
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place claims 6-10 in condition for allowance, and notice of the allowance of these claims in addition to claims 1-5 is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is unable to issue a Notice of Allowance regarding claims 1-10, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney in order to discuss any further outstanding issues.

Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

6. (Amended) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a data base which contains registration data including at least position data and designation information for retrieval of additional information, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus; and

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the data base;

receiving means for receiving said designation information corresponding to said selected data for retrieving said additional information, said selected data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location;

checking means for checking whether user's manual operation be is needed to acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information;

receiving means for receiving additional information based on the designation information; and

displaying means for displaying said additional information.

and

selection means for selecting data from said data base which corresponds to said detected current position location of said information retrieval apparatus, said selected data having position data representing positions in the vicinity of the detected current position location, said designation information corresponding to said selected data for retrieving said additional information.